

## Assad confers with Lebanese leaders

DAIMASUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks on Wednesday with Lebanese Muslim leaders on last month's assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said. The Lebanese side included acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Huseini, Druze leader Walid Jumblatt and Naouel Bitti, the Shiite Amal militia head. SANA said discussions covered "the assassination of Mr. Karami, which has not yet been fully handled as an unusual political crime aimed at undermining Lebanon's unity and carried out by pro-Israeli partitionist agents." It said the meeting agreed that uncovering and punishing the killers and masterminds of the crime "should have priority to all other issues, and any future political moves will be conditioned on them." Lebanon's Syrian-backed Muslim leaders have blamed the anti-Syrian "Lebanese Forces" militia for the assassination of Mr. Karami and accused President Amin Gemayel of blocking investigations into the murder.

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## Senate meets today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) holds a session today under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The meeting will be attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Cabinet members. During the session the Senate will refer eight draft laws to specialized committees for debate and approval.

## Lod bomb defused

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police safely dismantled an explosive found at a main bus depot near Tel Aviv Wednesday during morning rush hour, the Itim news agency reported. The bomb was in a plastic bag beneath a bench at a station in the town of Lod, just outside Tel Aviv, the report said.

## Von Weizsaecker invites Waldheim to visit W. Germany

VIENNA (R) — President Richard von Weizsaecker has invited Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to visit West Germany, Foreign Minister Alois Mock said Wednesday. Mr. Von Weizsaecker proposed a "neighbourly meeting," according to Mr. Mock. Though such an unofficial meeting would not rank as a state visit, the invitation is the first extended to Dr. Waldheim by a Western head of state to have been made public. News of the invitation came when Mr. Mock was answering journalists' questions after talks with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who on Wednesday began a four-day visit to Austria.

## U.S. bars Marcos from leaving

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Wednesday announced it had barred former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos from leaving his exile in Hawaii because of concerns he was trying to destabilize the government in Manila. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said U.S. laws give the Immigration and Naturalization Service authority to bar an alien from departing from the United States. "Such an order has been issued for Mr. Marcos," he told reporters.

## 4 kidnapped in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — Gunmen claiming to be members of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) abducted three American teachers and a British nurse from their homes in southern Sudan on Tuesday, their office said Wednesday. Daniel Bitrus, executive director of the American Association of Christian Resource Organisations Serving Sudan (ACROSS) named the Americans as Steven Arthur Anderson, Katy Taylor and Mark Nikkel and the British as Heather Sinclair. Bitrus told Reuters the gunmen broke into their homes at 12.30 a.m. and took them away at 2.00 a.m. in the company of some Sudanese whom they later released. Anderson 31, Taylor, 32, and Sinclair 29, were working for ACROSS, Anderson and Taylor as teachers at the Bishop Gwynne College in Mundri, about 100 kilometres north of the regional capital Juba, and Sinclair as a nurse in an ACROSS primary health care programme. Bitrus added. Nikkel is an Anglican also teaching at Gwynne College but not under ACROSS auspices, he said. The ACROSS personnel had received no prior threats or warnings and the abduction came as a surprise, he added.

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## Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts begins



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor attend the formal opening on Wednesday of the Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Petra photo)

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERASH — The ancient ruins of this 4,500-year-old city came alive and reverberated to tantalizing music from Arab and Western instruments as the flame of the Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts was lit on Wednesday, marking the beginning of a three-week extravaganza.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, along with members of the royal family and senior officials including the prime minister and Cabinet ministers, attended the festive occasion against the greying

background of the setting summer sun.

Seventeen countries from far and near, from China to the U.S. and Britain to Syria, are participating in this year's Jerash Festival; offering a large choice of Arab and Western music, dances, plays, acrobatics, and literature. A multitude of Jordanian folklore troupes, from the various regions of the Kingdom, crown the list of participants.

Four local Jordanian groups from Fuheis, Ramtha, Mafrag and a Circassian group performed during the opening ceremonies. They were followed by a short interlude of music by nine Americans, members of the "Young

Strings in Action" group, accompanied by 45 Jordanian musicians from the National Music Conservatory.

As the Jordanian Armed Forces Band played bagpipe and drum music, Her Majesty the Queen walked down the colonnaded walkway to open various exhibitions. In a circle dividing the walkway, Jordanian and Palestinian handicrafts of brass and silver glittered and glimmered under the floodlights. Small makeshift booths offered passersby souvenirs made of olive wood.

One highlight was a woman in a booth busily weaving woolen rugs on the traditional Arab

loom. She said the rugs she made were for sale at one of the booths at the festival.

Further down the colonnaded walkway, Yarmouk University students entertained spectators with their singing.

In a traditional Arab-style tent sat a group of youngsters sipping Arabic coffee and sharing a song as the aroma of shawarma and falafel filled the air, further authenticating the reputation of the Arab nature and background of the Jerash Festival, an annual event since 1981.

On Wednesday, the London City Ballet performed the

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan appeals for international action to stop Israel's water plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Wednesday appealed to international forums and organisations to intervene and stop Israel from implementing a plan to pump water from the occupied West Bank.

The appeal was issued by Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Daudin. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Daudin pointed out that the Israeli plan was a flagrant violation of international conventions and U.N. resolutions. The government is in contact with the U.N. and other international organisations over the Israeli scheme, the minister said.

Under the Israeli plan, about 20 million cubic metres of water will be pumped every year from an area southeast of the occupied

West Bank town of Bethlehem. Most of the water so pumped will be used to cater Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli defence ministry has approved the plan, which West Bank mayors have said will deprive the Palestinian towns and villages around Bethlehem and the city itself of water.

Jordan has instructed its permanent representative at the U.N. to lodge a protest over the scheme with the world body saying the Kingdom deserved the right to call for a Security Council meeting to discuss the issue.

Mr. Daudin said Wednesday that since 1967 Israel had been seizing water resources in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and imposing restrictions preventing Arabs from exploiting their water resources for agricul-

tural and drinking purposes. At the same time, Israel continued to explore for and supply water to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Mr. Daudin said pointing out that the settlements' consumption of water was double that of the entire West Bank.

These Israeli measures are part of the Jewish state's schemes aimed at Judaizing the occupied territories and evicting their legitimate owners by confiscating their land and building new settlements, the minister said.

The minister noted that although 720 water wells had been drilled before Israel's occupation of the West Bank in 1967, most Arab towns and villages in the now-occupied territory suffer from a relatively permanent shortage of water dur-

## Court acquits Ammarin and 5 others in Sati case but prosecutor wants to appeal

ANKARA (Agencies) — A state security court has acquitted six defendants, four of them accused members of the Abu Nidal organization, in the 1985 murder of a Jordanian diplomat, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Six Palestinians, a Jordanian embassy clerk and a Turk were accused in connection with the July 1985 murder of Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Ziad Sati. Two Palestinians, the alleged gunman, Abdul Salam Al Haj, and the driver of the getaway car, Hilmii Mousa, remain at large and were tried in absentia. The Jordanian embassy clerk, Adnan Mansur Saleim an Ammarin, was accused of plotting the murder. He would have faced the death penalty if convicted. In a separate case, Mr. Ammarin was sentenced to 15 years in prison for spying for Syria, the agency reported.

The four were released Wednesday but may not leave Turkey and Mr. Ammarin, Mr. Kent and Mr. Ramadan remain detained on other charges.

However, the chief prosecutor in the case said Wednesday he would appeal following the acquittal of the defendants.

Another Palestinian, Nader Haboush, and the Turk, Ali Kent, were also acquitted on charges of being accessories to the killing.

The defendants, who had been under arrest, denied the charges.

Prosecutor Ulku Coskun alleged in his indictment the four Palestinians were members of the Abu Nidal group.

Mr. Ammarin sat impassive in court as the four students embraced each other and cheered when the acquittal was announced.

The security court originally dropped Mr. Ammarin from the Sati case on grounds of immunity but later reversed the decision. Jordan has repeatedly protested to Turkey that it has no right to try Mr. Ammarin.

## New group claims holding 2 W. Germans in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The kidnappers of two West Germans on Wednesday made the first public claim to holding them and said Syria and West Germany held the key to their release.

The group, in a statement sent to a Beirut newspaper, said it wanted to swap a videotape of one of the two hostages for a videotape of Mohammad Ali Hamadei, jailed in West Germany on air piracy and murder charges.

West Germans Rudolf Cordes, 55, and Alfred Schmidt, 47, were seized in west Beirut in January, shortly after Mr. Hamadei's arrest in Frankfurt.

"We stress the solution of this case is linked to an active role by Syria and includes an apology by

German officials," said the statement, signed by "The Freedom Strugglers."

The statement was accompanied by a photocopy of Mr. Cordes' passport.

It did not say whether the videotape would show Mr. Cordes, or the other West German held in Lebanon, Alfred Schmidt.

The 30-line statement was delivered to the west Beirut office of the independent newspaper An Nahar.

"We shall present to the German people and the families of the hostages a videotape showing one of the hostages in return for a videotape showing holy fighter Mohammed Hamadei," the statement said.

Another Palestinian, Nader Haboush, and the Turk, Ali Kent, were also acquitted on charges of being accessories to the killing.

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## Fayez holds talks with Syrian counterpart

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Official talks between Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Za'bi started here on Wednesday.

The talks centred on encouraging cooperation in the parliamentary field to better serve the interests of objectives of Syria, Jordan, and the whole Arab nation.

They also discussed the role of

Arab parliamentarians in strengthening Arab solidarity.

Both Mr. Fayez and Mr. Zabi stressed during their meeting the need to intensify efforts and to mobilise Arab resources to unify the Arab ranks.

Mr. Fayez left Amman Wednesday at the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation on a several day official visit to Syria in response to an invitation extended by Mr. Zabi.

## Killer still sought

AMMAN (I.T.) — Public Security authorities are continuing an intensive search for the robber and killer of the 22-year-old businessman, Muhieddeen Bassi.

Mr. Bassi was shot to death on Monday during a robbery.

In its endeavours and intensive search, the Public Security Department (PSD) has circulated 20,000 copies of the identikit sketch of the killer, who fled with JD 100,000, to shops, banks, groceries, taxi offices, and institutions to identify and arrest the assailant.

Owner of the Hijjawi Corporation, Taha Mahmoud Al Hijjawi, called the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i on Tuesday saying that he will give a reward of JD 1,000 and a valuable watch to anybody who helps arrest the assailant.

## Arbitration law to be amended

AMMAN (I.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has decided at the recommendation of the Economic Consultative Council, to form a special committee, under the chairmanship of Justice Minister Riyad Al Shaka'a, to propose amendments to the arbitration law currently in force.

Such amendments have become necessary to cope with the various developments in various sectors.

The newly formed committee comprises director of the Central Tenders Committee, Ministry of Industry and Trade's companies censor, president of the Jordanian Bar Association, president of the Jordanian Contractors Association, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, chairman of Amman chambers of commerce and industry.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday receives newly appointed chief-of-staff of the U.N. Trace Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), Lieutenant General Martin Vadset, currently on a tour of the region. Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker also received Lt.-Gen. Vadset. The meeting was also attended by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistant (Petra photo).

## King, Queen receive U.S. group

By Peter Baratta  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday met with a group of U.S. students and professors who are visiting Jordan as members of the Petra Programme, designed to give Americans the chance to experience firsthand Arabic culture and traditions.

After meeting with the King and Queen, the group travelled to Jerash for the opening of the 6th annual Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

The Petra Programme, sponsored by the Arab Cultural Association, was created three years ago specifically to offer American high school students of Arab origin the chance to travel to their

native land and rediscover their roots, said Khawla Abu Odeh, coordinator of the programme.

The programme has since expanded and now invites any American student who wishes to learn more about Arab culture and the Middle East, she said.

This is the first year U.S. professors have been invited to participate in the programme, Mrs. Abu Odeh added.

Although the entire group is under the auspices of the Petra Programme, the students are part of the Malcolm H. Kerr High School Scholars Programme, sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, an organisation based in Washington, D.C.

Established in memorandum of Dr. Kerr, the president of the

## Jordan is committed to peace, Dudin tells Baptist conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin said on Wednesday that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is committed to establishing peace, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, through an international peace conference under the U.N. auspices.

Mr. Dudin, who was addressing the opening session of the annual conference of the Baptist World Alliance on behalf of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, said Jordan has gone far in its efforts to convene an international peace conference and that many countries, including the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the European Community, and non-aligned countries support the conference.

The professors are members of the Joseph J. Malone Fellows Programme, also sponsored by the National Council.

The group is currently staying at the Amman Hotel where they will learn how to prepare Arabic food from the hotel's restaurant management section, Mrs. Abu Odeh said.

During their stay, the students will learn basic Arabic, study the political, social and economic issues of Jordan and the Arab World, visit historical sites and participate in cultural activities, including *depka* — traditional Arabic folklore dancing, she said.

The two-day gathering of UNRWA's main financial backers

and peace and the role of religion in politics have direct impact on people's daily lives, he said.

Mr. Dudin added that Jesus Christ had his own method for advocating a peaceful life without resorting to military might. "He came with a message for peace and taught us how to live peacefully, as does Islam," he said.

Mr. Dudin called for efforts to establish a just and durable peace in Jerusalem and said friends of Israel should encourage it to accept and respond to the calls of peace.

President of the Baptist alliance, Neil Foss, expressed deep appreciation to Jordan for hosting the conference and for His Majesty King Hussein, who, Mr. Foss said, enjoyed an international reputation as a peacemaker.

AMMAN (I.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) humanitarian and political role in the Middle East has been reaffirmed by members of a special conference held in Vienna on July 6 and 7 to review financial plans and programmes, according to an UNRWA press release.

"Too much time has passed without a resolution of problems that ensued from the 1948 Middle East war," Mr. Giacometti told the gathering. "This means that another generation of refugees

## UNRWA's funders reaffirm support

AMMAN (I.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the

and countries playing host to more than 2 million Palestine refugees was characterised by its informality and constructive atmosphere, said UNRWA's Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacometti.

UNRWA needs funds to discharge its commitments and not to be obliged to implement programmes in a piecemeal manner as contributions come in, said Mr. Ahmed Qatanani, Under Secretary of Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

## Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts begins

(Continued from page 1)

Romantic tragedy "Giselle" while the Young Strings in Action played music at the Artemis Steps. A children's play, "Ammo Amin," was staged at the Sound and Light Theatre and local folklore troupes performed at the Forum.

In the next 23 days, troupes attending the festival will alternate among the various specially set-up stages for their performances. The festival committee charges varying admission charges for shows inside the special auditoriums, but some of the artists will also go on the stage at the Forum where there is no admission charge except the main

entry fee of JD 1. A ticket to any of the special shows automatically entitles the holder to free entry.

According to festival officials, all arrangements have been made to provide various services, including food and beverages, within the festival grounds. The road between Amman and Jerash are regularly manned by traffic police and there are two parking lots in Jerash which could take over 5,000 cars.

The estimated attendance on Wednesday was 2,000 and the

low figure was attributed to the fact that the opening ceremony was for invited only.

One Frenchman who spoke to

the Jordan Times said he stayed in Jordan this year for the sole purpose of attending the Jerash Festival. "I have found the festi-

val to be very lively and the Jordanians to be very welcoming," he said. "I hope we can have such a festival in France."



"Drink Badr alboudour, drink!" commands the evil magician (Alan Weeks) as the princess (Anny De Grange) tries to avoid drinking the poisoned wine. This nerve-wracking scene is part of the musical play, "Aladdin," written and performed

especially for the Jerash Festival by the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts troupe. The play will be held Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, in South Theatre at 9:00 p.m. (Photo by Timothy Raab).

## Aladdin stages its world premiere

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Performing a musical written especially for this year's Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts is the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts (ESIPA). The musical is "Aladdin" and its world premieres can be seen Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11 at the South Theatre at 9 p.m.

Based on the Arab literary classic, "A Thousand and One Nights," ESIPA's playwright Elisabeth Ruthman has spun a new tale where audiences journey with Aladdin to rescue Princess Badr alboudour and save his own life in a battle against the supernatural powers of an evil magician.

Along the way are many surprises — sorcerer's flames flare from a mountaintop, bats dance and enchanted caverns overflow with shining treasure.

This is ESIPA's second visit to Jordan. In 1983 they performed

their superb version of "Sleeping Beauty" to enchanted Jerash audiences. The warm reception they received prompted the American centre to invite them back again and ESIPA expressed their delight at returning by writing Aladdin especially for the occasion.

With music by Dennis Buck and choreography by Patrice Sonero who has also written the choreography for the Broadway production of "Standust" among much else, and directed by Peter Webb, Aladdin has been sufficiently successful in its May preview at the Egg in Albany, New York to inspire the critics of The Chronicle to write: "ESIPA's Aladdin is a pure little gem of theatre, complete with eye-popping spectacle, singing, dancing, laughs, love and dastardly black magic."

The leading role of Aladdin will be played by Ron Bohmer who is working with ESIPA for the first time. In New York, he most

recently played in the long running off Broadway hit "Forbidden Broadway."

Princess Badr alboudour, daughter of the Sultan and Aladdin's love will be played by Anny De Grange, whose Broadway experience includes the role of the mistress in "Evita" and a part in the musical "Raggedy Ann" which originated at ESIPA.

The "throughly nefarious nemesis" of Aladdin and Badr alboudour, the magician will be played by Alan Weeks whose extensive Broadway credits include "Ain't Misbehaving," "Ob, Brother," "The Wiz" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat." Among his screen credits is the film "French Connection" and on the television he starred as Leroy's father in "Fame."

Other leading roles in the production will be performed by members of ESIPA's resident company.

thereafter.

Mr. Casey, a World War II secret agent, died after giving preliminary testimony to congressional committees on the Iran-contra affair — evidence now increasingly questioned as possibly misleading and false — and before the special select committee now sitting were formed.

In testimony before he died

Mr. Casey flatly denied he or

the CIA had anything to do with

the fund diversion until a few days before it became public last November.

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## Jordan Times

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### Dual nationality works

THE adoption on Tuesday of a law by the Lower House of Parliament allowing Jordanians to enjoy dual citizenship is a timely and positive step for Jordan. With hundreds of thousands of Jordanians having studied and worked abroad, granting them an opportunity now to participate in the general development of their motherland can only boost the economy and general welfare of Jordan and help reverse the brain-drain phenomenon which has afflicted all developing countries.

Even developed countries have opted for the dual citizenship formula to assure a durable linkage with their expatriates. In the Arab World, Lebanon was the first country to recognise the importance of maintaining ties with its expatriates who have gone in search of opportunities. Egypt followed suit when it discovered that the cream of its highly educated people had emigrated to either Canada or the United States or Australia and that the best way to lure back their skills and sophisticated know-how was to allow them to retain their Egyptian citizenship in addition to keeping their newly acquired citizenship.

We in Jordan, as elsewhere where dual citizenship has been legalised, should not be unduly worried about a conflict in loyalty or allegiance in this respect. Citizenship certificates are like marriage certificates; by themselves they do not guarantee faithful or durable relationships. It takes more than legal formalities to assure bonds of relationships between man and state. With sufficient supplementary legislation to avoid any possible abuse of dual citizenship rights, we should not be unduly fearful of the consequences of this latest courageous and bold decision by the government of Jordan. On the contrary, we have every cause to be gratified for the bonds with our expatriates can be rekindled. Our compatriots can do us no harm. Rather, they can contribute their high degree of sophistication in the intellectual, mechanical, or technological fields to make this country even more advanced and prosperous.

We can only congratulate our government as well as ourselves for this latest initiative by our policy makers. It is now up to our expatriates to reciprocate this generous offer by Jordan and Jordanians by re-establishing their contacts and linkage with their motherland on all levels and in all fields. We shall expect more and more of them to visit their homeland and invest their know-how and capital in the development schemes of this magnificent country of ours. Some of them had in fact participated in the annual expatriate conference which were convened in Amman over the past three years. Many of their concerns and aspirations as expressed in these conferences were duly noted and acted upon. With more dialogue between them and us in formal or informal meetings, all of us stand to reap much benefit.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Israel's grand designs

THE Israeli plan to seize ground water resources in the occupied West Bank stresses anew that Israel's strategy is aimed at swallowing the Arab land in broad daylight. The recent Israeli measures to steal Arab waters come to refute the Israeli allegations and claims of its interest in achieving peace. Such allegations are no more than a cast of dust in the eyes. Israel's daily practices in the occupied Arab territories bear witness to the evil Israeli intentions of confiscating the land and dispossessing its owners. It is within this context that Jordan recently lodged a complaint with the United Nations, alerting the international body to the gravity of these practices and reminding the whole world that such action is in violation of all international rules and norms. Therefore, the international community is asked to embark on an action to deter Israel from proceeding ahead with its plans to seize water resources. The international community should always remember that the road to peace is not only through the convocation of an international peace conference, but at the same time, through the serious efforts and endeavours to press Israel to abandon its expansionist and to remove all the obstacles it has placed on the road to peace. Israel's plan and measures, designed to change the demographic and topographic situation of the West Bank, pose a serious threat to international peace and security and hinders the implementation of all peaceful efforts and initiatives. These measures strengthen the conviction that Israel clings and will cling to its dream of seizing the Arab land. This situation gives the Arabs no choice, but to build their own military power, which is capable of halting the Israeli plan.

#### Al Dustour: Hopes on the seven

AT a time when the seven-member Arab committee, formed by the Arab League to find a solution to the Iran-Iraq war, resumed its mission on Tuesday, by a visit to Britain to discuss means of finding a solution to the destructive war, the battlefields witnessing military escalations and political developments which could be the most serious in terms of bloodshed and exhaustion of tremendous powers and capacities. The most serious thing in the current crisis is the conflicting stands of both Washington and the Soviet Union over the massing of warships in the Gulf waters. This naval buildup demonstrates the ill-harmonious intentions of both countries, since their exchange of accusations has come at a very delicate time. The two superpowers are serving their interests rather than contributing to finding a solution and thus enabling Iran to exploit the inflammable situation for its own interest. It is therefore hoped that the seven-member Arab committee can grab the initiative anew and capitalise on the current move to restore international consensus.

#### Sawt Al Shaa'a: Dangerous turns

DESPITE the sincere efforts made by the United Nations to put an end to the ongoing Iran-Iraq war, such efforts will always remain crippled as long as the tension in the Gulf region is continuing and the U.S. and Soviet warships sailing in the Gulf waters. The American and Soviet concepts on the Gulf war converge at one point, but cross at many points, and hence, they have many dangerous dimensions which further aggravate the situation. The intransigent Iranian stand, based on the rejection of all peaceful initiatives and calls, is to be blamed for the escalation of military actions in the Gulf region. The Iranian regime, which sustained big losses, has attempted to involve the superpowers in the war in a bid to fish in the troubled waters. The Iranian position should prompt Arabs to crystallise, as early as possible, a pan-Arab stand before Arabs lose their ability to take the initiative in the Gulf region or elsewhere.

# Soviets gain where Americans blunder

By Donald Neff

ONE of the more enduring American misconceptions about the Middle East is the fiction that agile U.S. diplomacy has kept the Soviet Union humbled to the status of a minor player in the region. Thus at a seminar at the American University in Washington on the 20th anniversary of the 1967 war all the worthy academics were in agreement about one thing: The USSR was doing poorly in the region. Another reflection of this perverse misreading of reality came recently in story in the Washington Post, which solemnly assured its readers that "Moscow's role has been eroded badly over the past 15 years (in the Middle East.)"

In some extent the error is understandable because President Reagan and his spokesmen routinely repeat this myth of erosion. They assure the world, and perhaps themselves, that U.S. diplomacy in the region has successfully "kept the Russians out." This, in fact, is the explicit rationale for one of the more bizarre alliances in U.S. diplomatic history, America's designation in 1983 of Israel as a "strategic ally." If anything, the facts show persuasively that if it weren't for Israel's intransigence there wouldn't be any need to worry

about the Soviet Union in the region. Yet it is precisely the aim of blocking the USSR that is used to justify the alliance. Most recently, this incantation about stemming the Soviets came in Reagan's major post-Vienna summit address aimed at countering growing congressional opposition to American ships escorting Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf. If America fails to escort, lectured Reagan, "we would open opportunities for the Russians to move into this choke-point of the free world's oil flow. In a word: If we don't do the job, the Russians will."

prolifically pledging away America's treasury for limited step-by-step agreements, the Soviets were quietly burrowing deeper than ever into the region. Contrary to Reagan's speech and the myth of erosion, the fact is the USSR by now is already well established in the Gulf — and just about anywhere else in the region one looks. While the Reagan administration has been content largely to ignore the Middle East — beyond extending automatic support for Israel — Moscow has continued making ever more impressive strides in extending its influence.

A series of recent events highlights the central role the Soviet Union is now playing and is likely to continue to play in the region. These include: Moscow's position as mediator in bringing renewed unity to the Palestine Liberation Organisation at its Algiers meeting; its refinancing of Egypt's debts which has made relations with Cairo better than they have been in years; its hosting of an official visit to Moscow for President Hafez Al Assad of Syria; its major mediating role in Muslim Lebanon and in encouraging a rapprochement between Presidents Assad and Saddam Hussein of Iraq; its wooing of the Gulf

states as indicated by a tour of the area by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky and by its agreement to protect Kuwaiti ships in the Gulf; its arms sales to Jordan, with more likely to come; its reception in Moscow of Sandi Arabia's oil minister to discuss global oil policy; and its increasingly warm overtures toward Israel.

It is now obvious — if not to Reagan and his Secretary of State, George Shultz, then at least to any serious observer — that if there is going to be any movement in the Middle East peace process, Moscow will have to be included. Jordan, once Washington's exclusive friend, is now insisting on a Soviet presence at any international peace conference. One of the more delicious (if disheartening) potential ironies that could emerge in the not too distant future is that the USSR may actually resume relations with Israel and will then be in a position to turn Kissinger's boast into its own: Only the Soviet Union has influence in both camps.

All this, and far more, has been

achieved by Moscow in the past 35 years. Before that, its presence was nil. Since then it has managed to forge treaties of cooperation and friendship with Iraq and

about being victims of Middle Eastern terrorists.

While Moscow was making these gains, Washington was losing more than its credibility. It lost its two major bases in the Arab World: Saudi Arabia refused to renew the U.S. lease on the Dhahran air base in 1961 and Libya did the same in 1970. The United States was thus denied its largest base in Africa and its only base in the Gulf. In both cases, America's exaggerated support of Israel contributed to the loss. In 1971, Washington made a partial return to the Gulf when Bahrain agreed to allow the U.S. to maintain a small naval station and hospital at Al Jufayr. But no substitute for the large Dhahran base — as the Reagan administration is now painfully learning. In sum, the USSR today has broader, and more influential, relations throughout the region than does the once dominant United States. All this represents an enviable accomplishment for Soviet diplomacy — and thus a major failure of U.S. diplomacy — particularly when one considers Moscow had no serious influence in the Middle East until 1955. With erosion like this who needs success? — Middle East International, London.

**The Soviets have broader relations throughout the region than does the United States.**

and credible reports that relations will be established in the indeterminate future between the Soviet Union and what used to be described as America's closest Arab friend, Saudi Arabia. Finally, there are no Soviet hostages being held in Lebanon — nor, ironically, do Soviet citizens generally seem to have to worry

### U.S. elections: 1988 Democratic field outshines 1984 cast

By Jonathan Wolman  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The 1988 Democratic presidential candidates — dubbed the "seven dwarfs" due to their lack of national political exposure — are being viewed as a more attractive field than the sacrificial lambs who threaded their way through the primaries in 1984.

Suddenly, Democratic figures are talking as if the party of former President Franklin D. Roosevelt may have a future as well as a past.

Following a televised debate in Houston last Wednesday, Democratic leader Robert Strauss — granted he is given to hyperbole — said he had never seen the party offer a more impressive presidential field.

"A lot of folks knew them only as the seven dwarfs," Jody Powell, the former aide to President Carter, said of the near-anonymous Democrats. "I doubt folks would come away (from the debate) with that impression."

"The American people don't know many of us very well," said senator Joseph Biden. "It was my purpose to attempt to answer the questions and demonstrate to the American people I had a grasp of the issues."

He acquitted himself nicely, and so did the others: Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, senator Paul Simon and Senator Albert Gore, congressman Richard Gephardt, Jesse Jackson and Bruce Babbitt.

"I tried to imagine them face to face with (leading Republican candidates) George Bush or Bob Dole, and I thought, almost any one of them would do fine," Democratic pollster Peter Hart told the Washington Post.

Aside from the dwarfs, the Democrats have several other strong figures not running — New York Governor Mario Cuomo and senator Bill Bradley, for example.

The larger group is living proof that the 1984 Reagan rout vanished not only Walter F. Mondale but probably most of his generation of Democrats from presidential politics.

It is striking to consider how the Democrats seem to have benefited from the leadership just three years ago when the presidential field numbered eight: Reuben Askew,

Alan Cranston, John Glenn, Gary Hart, Fritz Hollings, Jesse Jackson, George McGovern and Mondale.

Among them, only Askew and Jackson were not creatures of that great deliberative body, the U.S. Senate.

Though Glenn and Hollings have expressed hesitant 1988 ambitions, the only carry over so far is Jackson, and he personifies the Democrats' improvement from three years ago. He is a new and improved candidate, handling himself in early campaign appearances with poise and maturity.

The old Jackson, reacting to Biden's statement that Jackson could not be vice president on a Biden ticket, might have growled menacingly at the Democrats and hinted at a third-party campaign. The new Jackson simply shrugged it off — and then referred to the senator in passing as "vice president Biden."

If the 1988 candidates add up to a better field than in 1984, party activists are praying the result will be better, too. It could hardly be worse — 1984 was marked by innerparty warfare in the primaries and total collapse in the general election. The debacle went like this:

Askew, a former Florida governor, never established himself, ran out of money early, and disappeared without a trace. Hollings brought acerbic honesty to the race but failed to capitalise on his most notable idea — across the board spending cuts.

Cranston was the wrong man for the times, too liberal to take on President Reagan, and too liberal to take on Mondale.

Gore, who had figured to be Mondale's biggest hurdle, squandered the glamour of his astronaut days and the credibility of his moderate standing in the Senate. He ran an inept race that never blossomed.

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The expected focus is a proposed international conference that is opposed by right-wingers headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "I presume the issue will come up," Peres told Israel army radio.

Israeli foreign ministry sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said Peres may also meet with Richard Murphy, a U.S. envoy who has just concluded talks on the Middle East with his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov.

Insiders suggest time is running out, and that unless Peres can

TEL AVIV — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's popularity has begun to fade in public opinion polls and among his own party activists after he failed to force national elections on the issue of Middle East peace.

In an apparent effort to reawaken momentum and maintain his own personal credibility, Peres has scheduled meetings with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Geneva on Thursday.

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Insiders suggest time is running out, and that unless Peres can

spark something soon the peace process will remain stalemated until after U.S. and Israeli elections, both set for the end of 1988.

"Peres must create a semblance of movement in the peace process to keep it alive until elections restore Labour's and the peace process's fortunes," wrote Jerusalem Post political analyst Benny Morris.

But Peres, 63, is beginning to feel the impact of his failure to bring down the coalition government on the peace issue as promised last May.

A public opinion research in Israel poll conducted in mid-June found that only 38.4 per cent of 1,200 Israelis surveyed were pleased with Peres' performance as foreign minister. That compared to peak approval ratings of around 70 per cent when Peres was head of the coalition government in 1985-86.

Shamir gained ground in the same Pori poll, getting a 30.3 per cent approval rating in June compared to 26.1 per cent in April.

Another independent polling organisation, Dahaf, reported Peres' Labour Party was losing support and would win 44 seats if

elections were held today instead of the 46 it might have had if elections had been held in May. Meanwhile, right-wing parties that favour keeping captured Arab territory gained enough support to win several more seats.

Perhaps most telling for Peres was a Dahaf finding that only 35 per cent of those surveyed believed early elections were justified by the controversy over the international conference. Sixty-four per cent said they were not, and 1 per cent gave no answer.

Uzi Bar-Am, secretary-general of the Labour Party, alluded to renewed infighting similar to in-trapary clashes 10 years ago between Peres and former premier Yitzhak Rabin, now defence minister.

"There are cracks... It is clear that the unity of the Labour Party has recently returned to a state it was in during the Rabin-Perez friction," Bar-Am said on Israel army radio.

Party insiders who spoke on condition of anonymity said numerous intra-party divisions erupted after Peres failed to force new elections. They cited significant disagreement with the way

Peres and his advisers handled the showdown with Likud on peacekeeping strategy.

Peres supporters have shifted some of the blame for the failure on the U.S. administration of President Ronald Reagan, especially Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz is known to have been cool to an international conference because it might provide an opening to the Soviet Union to play a broader role in the region.

The proposed conference would be convened by Perez de Cuellar and be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the Soviet Union, China, the United States, Britain and France — as well as parties in the region.

Shamir has argued a conference would merely serve as a way of pressuring Israel into making territorial concessions, such as a return of the West Bank and Gaza Strip occupied in 1967, which he opposes.

Perez has claimed the international conference was a cover to allow Jordan to enter the talks without being attacked by radical Arabs and would serve only to launch bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab states.

### Ivory Coast runs out of patience with IMF austerity

Peter Blackbourn reports on the reasons why this West African state — a "favourite son" of bankers and aid donors — has suspended its debt repayments.

ABIDJAN — When the Ivory Coast announced recently that it was suspending debt payments, shock waves spread far beyond the small French-speaking West African state.

The Ivory Coast has long been regarded as one of the rare African success stories — all the more remarkable because its rapid economic growth since independence has been based on agriculture rather than oil or mineral resources.

"If Ivory Coast cannot pay its debts, then what hope is there for the rest of Africa?" bankers ask.

The Ivory Coast, with its political stability and liberal economic policies, has traditionally been a "favourite son" of bankers, bilateral and multilateral aid donors. Unlike some other African countries, it has not lacked financial support for its economic reforms.

economy was expanding again and a multi-year rescheduling of external debt had freed resources to help achieve a 4 per cent a year growth target.

Unfortunately the collapse in the prices of cocoa and coffee, which provide about 60 per cent of Ivory Coast export earnings, quickly undermined the rescheduling scenario.

Coffee prices have since fallen by 44 per cent and cocoa by 20 per cent, while a 15 per cent depreciation of the dollar against the local CFA currency has further reduced export earnings.

Real gross domestic product is now expected to decline by 1 per cent in 1987, compared with a 3.5 per cent annual average growth rate envisaged during the four-year rescheduling.

The Caisse de Stabilisation, the state commodity marketing board, is making a loss on the cocoa and coffee it buys from farmers at guaranteed prices. As a result, it expects to make

## Close to power's ear, he trims rough edges of Reagan image

By Christopher Hanson  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — If this man slips, President Reagan's image will suffer.

Milton Pitts is a private citizen but he works near the top-secret "situation room" where, fired Reagan aide Oliver North once hung his hat.

He is the presidential barber.

Pitts, 67, once described by the Washington Post as "the Chagall of male coif, the Leonardo of political locks," has a high-powered clientele that has included each president except Jimmy Carter since 1969.

He was responsible for making President Richard Nixon's locks less greasy, for making President Gerald Ford look less bald and for trimming down Reagan's pompadour — the swept-back stack of hair that was the delight of cartoonists.

Every 12 days Pitts leaves his

shop in the pricey Sheraton-Carlton Hotel, walks two blocks to the White House and meets Reagan in the mansion's tiny barber shop.

"He's one of the most easiest men to work with," Pitts told Reuters in his slow Southern drawl.

His work close to the president's ear has given him an almost proprietary interest in the Reagan image.

The Iran-contra scandal that has been raging since November is the sort of thing to turn a president's hair grey — but Pitts insists it is natural.

He quoted Reagan as replying, "Milt, you'd better clear that up with the press."

The barber said he persuaded

Reagan to let him replace his pompadour with a "layer cut," in which each hair has about two inches long. "This gave it a good, balanced contour," he says.

Pitts came to Washington from South Carolina, 45 years ago, built up a business with a string of influential customers and won a referral to the White House in 1969.

When he cuts the president's hair, secret service agents guard the door. No one is allowed in the

shop except Pitts, a manicurist, and the president.

He charges the chief executive \$20 per session, like all his old customers (newcomers pay 25), but does not expect the president to pay cash. He sends a monthly bill.

As Pitts snips away, he waits for his customer to begin the small talk and follows the presidential lead. Sometimes, says Pitts, Reagan watches old movies on television or chats about current events.

Reagan is always immaculate, according to Pitts, who attributes this to his years as a Hollywood film star.

Nixon and Ford were less secure and always called him in for a shampoo and trim before they appeared on television.

When Ford took office after Nixon's Watergate scandal resignation in 1974, Pitts said, he was anxious to make his hair thicker.

Pitts said he told him, "Everything you're doing is wrong, Sir."

He went at the president, with shampoo, blow-dryer and razor-comb. Ford's hair came out looking fuller.

Nixon was even more of a challenge.

Pitts said when he met him, Nixon's hair was too long, too shiny from greasy ointment, too high in front, too short in back. In all, Pitts said, Nixon's hair made his famous ski nose look longer.

The barber left Nixon's coif fuller on the sides and lower in the back, and eliminated the ointment.

On Aug. 8, 1974, just before he resigned due to the Watergate scandal, Nixon summoned Pitts for a last trim.

As Pitts recalls it, the beleaguered president settled into the barber chair and said, "The same as usual."

Alluding to his imminent resignation, Nixon declared he had

done many good things as president, despite his mistakes.

He said he would come to Pitts' hotel shop sometime. "I'll call for an appointment, just like anyone else."

He never did, said Pitts, but the two have kept in touch.

Pitts' hotel shop looks like a politics hall-of-fame. The walls are hung with framed, signed photographs of customers such as former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, ex-Nixon aide John Ehrlichman, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Most are Republicans.

When Carter was president from 1977-1981, he used another barber. But Pitts says he harbours no partisan bitterness.

"People ask me, 'Milt do you cut Democrats' hair?'" he said, adding: "My scissors don't know the difference between a Democrat and a Republican."

## Randa Habib's Corner

### False rumours

A LETTER from a "concerned mother" has brought to my attention a rumour circulating in Amman that the bacteria responsible for meningitis has been found in the swimming pools of the city's social clubs.

My reader's concern, being a mother, is that children using those pools, might catch this serious illness. Rumours, it seems, flourish in this town, at a high speed. That is why I feel it necessary to communicate to you the result of my personal investigation on the matter.

First of all, as physicians told me, the danger of any disease being transmitted via water would only be in the case of non-controlled pools. Small neglected pools without chlorine in the water. In the case of Amman's social clubs that are regularly controlled and well-supervised, the chances of catching any kind of disease are rare.

On the other hand, I personally investigated and found that samples from public pools are regularly taken by the Ministry of Health for checks. Most pools use chlorine to purify water. People complain that chlorine is added in big quantities, causing allergies to children with sensitive skin. Clubs' officials say that they are forced to add higher quantities of chlorine because their clients do not apply the clubs' hygienic rules. Big signs ask the members and guests to shower before getting into the pool, but few really do, officials at those clubs maintain. Based on all of this I see no reason for panic. We should not submit to these rumours and deprive our children of the fun of swimming. The Ministry of Health seems to be doing a good job. But is might not be a bad idea if the ministry would wage an awareness campaign to warn people when a warning is due or to calm their minds when a false rumour circulates.

## Vietnam learns to take it easy after decades of war

By Joseph de Rienzo  
Reuter

Hanoi's open-air International Club for dancing is enthusiastic if not polished dance combos.

These diversions are certainly for the elite. But for the less affluent, music and drama performances and cinemas are popular and affordable — about the cost of a loaf of bread.

The new era of reform that Hanoi leadership appears determined to encourage is reflected in this relaxed atmosphere.

Actors at run-down theatres and new state cultural halls delight audiences with subtle jibes at corruption and inefficiency in the Communist Party bureaucracy.

They spend their leisure time scintillating their physiques.

Muscleman Nguyen Van Tam and some of the 50 members of his group willingly flexed for the camera under a portrait of gaunt Conti said.

Experts have come up with theoretical models of just what takes place in the fusion process, but so far they have been unable to detect all the neutrinos that are supposedly released in the process.

"Experiments carried out in the last 20 years have shown only one-third the number of neutrinos that theory predicted," says Jay M. Pasachoff, professor of astronomy at Williams College.

Neutrinos almost never react with matter, largely because they are so insubstantial and carry no electric charge. They zip right through the earth at the speed of light. Few cosmologists paid attention to them until 1980, when Soviet and American experiments indicated that these supposedly massless points of energy might in fact have a small mass.

If neutrinos do have any mass,

however small, there are so many of them that they could account for as much as 90 per cent of the mass of the entire universe.

## Scientists probe deep inside sun

By Donald J. Frederick  
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — The sun is like a big ringing bell, sounding millions of notes at a time.

Of course, scientists can't hear any tones, but they can watch the vibrations through a technique known as helioseismology, a new method of probing beneath the sun's surface.

Just as seismologists analyze seismic waves to study conditions deep within the earth, helioseismologists study sound waves to learn what's happening inside earth's nearest star.

Such observations could have far-reaching implications. By watching the sun carefully, scientists may learn more about other, more distant stars, and, closer to home, earth's weather.

### Sun in constant turmoil

But there's a big difference between seismic waves on earth and on the sun. On earth, specific events such as earthquakes or nuclear explosions cause earth's crust to tremble, releasing energy in the form of seismic waves, which travel much like sound waves and generate vibrations within the earth.

The sun, bubbling in an inferno of gases, is never still, however.

possible for astronomers to obtain an uninterrupted series of observations, which are expected to yield the first detailed information on the structure and dynamics of the sun's interior," says John Leibacher, project scientist for the Global Oscillations Network Group (GONG) in Tucson, Ariz.

A rotating nuclear furnace made up mostly of hydrogen and helium gases, the sun constantly emits energy. Periodically, magnetic fields develop on its surface in areas called sunspots, which appear darker because they are comparatively cooler.

Associated with these disturbances, which last for weeks, are flares and arcing streams of gas called prominences. Such activity affects earth's magnetic field, atmosphere, and possibly climate and weather.

Other secrets may be found deep in the sun's core. There, in the nuclear fusion process, the nuclei of hydrogen atoms collide, uniting to form helium nuclei and giving off enormous amounts of energy. In one second, the sun gives off more energy than all humans have produced during their history on earth.

By studying the oscillations leading to the sun's interior, scientists may find out exactly how

the sun burns hydrogen to form helium and heavier elements, a process that is still poorly understood.

Moreover, helioseismology may shed more light on neutrinos, peculiar particles that are produced in the sun's burning core and in other stars.

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however small, there are so many of them that they could account for as much as 90 per cent of the mass of the entire universe.

## 'Roman Holiday' gets a modern facelift

By Alan Baldwin  
Reuter

ROME — "Roman Holiday", the classic black and white romantic comedy that launched Audrey Hepburn as an international film star next to Gregory Peck, is being given a modern facelift for American television.

But the revival of William Wyler's light-hearted fable, which won Hepburn an Oscar in 1953 as best actress and added to the director's fame as a perfectionist taskmaster, may raise a howl or two of anguish from some film buffs.

The original was one of the first major Hollywood films to be made in postwar Rome and captivated audiences with Hepburn's style and aura of wide-eyed innocence.

The new cast list may seem surprising: Hepburn's role as a fresh-faced princess who slips away from her entourage to see the sights of Rome in secret is taken by Catherine Oxenberg, better known for starring in the soap opera "Dynasty."

British actor Tom Conti, who has Scottish and Italian ancestry, is given the daunting task of following Peck's performance as a reporter who sees the princess in the street and follows her. The two eventually fall in love after a series of innocent adventures.

Conti, whose performance on Broadway in the play "Who's Life is it Anyway?" won him a Tony award as best actor, said he was initially reluctant to make the film.

"My first answer was no," he told Reuters, relaxing in the shade during a break from filming on Rome's Spanish Steps last month. "Thank you very much, No. Gregory Peck — oh no."

With groups of foreign tourists watching from nearby, Conti explained his first reactions when asked to take the part.

"I thought this is really going where angels fear to tread. When people say 'What are you doing?' I say: 'Well actually we're doing a remake of Roman Holiday' ... Will you be Gregory Peck? ... oh, my God," he laughed.

He said he changed his mind after he saw the original again and thought how much fun it looked.

"You don't want to be a sinner all the time," he said in a characteristic use of metaphor. "Sometimes you want to be a windmill — that's the fun of this

business, because it allows you to change, because it's different."

"This film is a lollipop, it's a piece of fluff, in musical terms its Rossini. It's for enjoyment..."

Conti said.

"When things are bad and people are unhappy it's really our job to go into the market place and tell them a story. That's what an actor's function is — to cheer them up. You can't have unrelenting gloom," he said.

Oxenberg said she had always wanted to play in light comedy and was eager to shake off her "Dynasty" image: "I did not really enjoy doing 'Dynasty' very much towards the end because I knew it was not really taking me anywhere."

Producer Jerry Ludwig said he had tried to be careful in modernising the script so as not to alienate those who remembered the old movie but also to win over a new generation.

"If I've done it right, the audience that remembers the old picture won't think I've done anything," he said.

Wyler took 12 weeks to film the movie on location in Rome, shooting some scenes as many as 70 times in his quest for perfection and even rebuilding the Spanish Steps indoors when the original proved inadequate for his series of innocent adventures.

The remake, directed by Noel Neeson, uses many of the Rome locations that made memorable scenes in the original, but is expected to take just a third of the time to make. Many of the interiors are also being filmed in Lisbon because Portugal is cheaper and quieter than Rome.

So much cheaper, in fact, that when the production team found one old set used by Wyler they carted it off to Portugal for filming rather than using it in Rome.

In one scene on the banks of the river Tiber, Wyler used 80 arc lamps to illuminate the scene, said sound man Aldo de Martino who worked on the original as well as helping with the new version. The remake takes place inside a discotheque.

Conti's role has also been changed since the days of Peck.

"Tom plays a reporter who has been in Angola, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Beirut. I think he figured out it was about half-a-dozen wars," Ludwig told Reuters.

"The old movie was enter Gregory Peck. Period. That was the characterisation," Ludwig said. "Peck was a star from the

old school and you could crack the veneer with a hammer. Conti is a real human being," the producer-scriptwriter added.

"Some years ago I worked with

Wyler," Ludwig said. "He did not have many regrets but said he always regretted not making this film in colour. Well, now we are doing just that."

Actress Catherine Oxenberg and actor Tom Conti in the new version of 'Roman Holiday'

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# Saudis call urgent Arab sports session over Iraq soccer ban

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The chairman of the Arab Football Federation (AFF), Prince Faisal Ibn Fahd, has summoned Arab sports officials to an emergency meeting to discuss a soccer ban on Iraq because of the Gulf war, aides reported Wednesday.

The meeting is scheduled for July 24 at the federation's headquarters in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, the aides said.

The prince called the session after Iraqi Youth and Sports Minister Nuri Faisal Shahir requested an urgent meeting of the federation to discuss a ban by the International Football Association, FIFA, on holding soccer matches in Iraq.

Iraq has been at war with

neighboring Iran since September 1980 and FIFA considers Baghdad unsafe.

FIFA has ruled that international games involving Iraq and Iran, such as World Cup elimination matches, be played outside the two countries.

But the new ruling has been widened to include soccer tournaments that Iraq would host, such as the Palestine Cup which is held every two years among Arab

countries.

The tournament carries strong political tones as it underlines Arab countries' backing for the Palestinian cause.

Faisal's deputy, Saleh Ibn Nasir, said that holding the Palestine Cup on schedule was of "major concern" to Faisal, son of King Fahd.

Faisal's aides disclosed that he

has contacted FIFA executives,

Arab football associations and

the Arab League on the FIFA ban, which was adopted by 16

votes to 4 in Zurich June 11.

It has reportedly drawn sharp

reaction from Arab associations.

The Iraqi request submitted to

FIFA to hold the Palestine Cup in

Baghdad from Aug. 15-30 had

been backed by Arab and Asian

football federations.

Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Al

Dahl, who voted in favour of the

arrangement in Zurich, said then

that the Palestine Cup tournament

was a "purely pan-Arab

occasion and the meet was endor

sed by the Council of Arab

Ministers for Youth and Sports in

Baghdad."

Asked if Jordan should be con

sidered as an alternative venue,

assistant federation chairman,

Waleed Kurdi, said that no other

Arab country has so far offered to

host the tournament.

"It all depends on the July 24

meeting," he said.

Maleeva crashes out in Belgian Open

Top-seeded Leconte ousted in first round in Swiss Open

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Sweden's Hendrik Sundstrom came from behind to upset top-seeded Henri Leconte 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in another first-round shocker Tuesday in the \$231,000 Swiss Open tennis tournament, leaving only four survivors among the eight seeds.

Sundstrom, ranked 115th in the world against Leconte's 12, had a slow start. But his control of the second set, interrupted briefly by rain, left little doubt about the outcome of the two-hour match.

The Swede's seeded countrymen equally moved ahead. Mikael Pernfors, five, took care

of the leading Swiss player, Jakob Hlasek, 6-2, 6-4 and Anders Jarryd, six, defeated Roland Stadler, also of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4.

Third-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain also had little trouble in disposing of Johan Kriek, United States, 6-1, 6-4.

The fourth seed to be ousted was India's Ramesh Krishnan, number seven, who went down against Haiti's Ronald Agenor, 3-6, 3-6.

The upsets followed the ouster Monday of the two American seeds, Brad Gilbert, number two, and Kevin Curren, four. The last American entry in the tournament dropped out Tuesday.

Leeds, Spurs fans travel barred

LONDON (AP) — England's soccer chiefs have barred European exhibition trips this summer by two clubs whose fans have been involved in game-related violence.

The football association said it was unable to sanction the proposed trips by First-Division Tottenham Hotspur and Second-Division Leeds United "under the prevailing circumstances."

The Spurs were to have played in The Netherlands, while Leeds was scheduled to play in West Germany.

Maleeva, ranked nine in the world, went down to the 10-year-old unseeded Federica Bonsignori of Italy 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 in two hours 30 minutes.

The defeat was another disappointment for the Bulgarian who was seeded seventh at Wimbleton but lost in the second round to Australia's Dianne Balestrat in straight sets.

## Argentina's soccer team in for a showdown against arch rival Uruguay

BUENOS AIRES (R) — World champions Argentina, led by soccer superstar Diego Maradona, clash with arch rivals Uruguay here on Thursday for a place in the final of the South American Cup.

Argentina hopes to repeat their

World Cup win over their traditional rivals from across the River Plate to keep Uruguay's participation in the tournament down to just one match.

Uruguay, which will field a much-changed side from that which lost 1-0 to Argentina in the second round of the World Cup in Mexico a year ago, were given

a bye into the semifinals as title holders.

With star forward Enzo Francescoli at the helm, Uruguay can

not be taken lightly.

But Argentina, with some new faces, are steadily improving under the influence of Maradona and look good enough to add the

South American title to their world crown, especially after Chile's shock elimination of Brazil.

Maradona scored three of their four goals in the qualifying round, including a brilliant free kick in the 3-0 victory over Ecuador last Saturday.

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Postal voting facilities and a list of candidates are available at the Australian embassy between 4th and 5th Circles - Jabal Amman - Telephone 6732467. The embassy is open from 0800 - 1300 hours daily Sunday - Thursday inclusive.

Remember voting is compulsory.

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### Hug attempt, fistfight take Tyson to court

LOS ANGELES (R) — World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was charged with assault with a deadly weapon — his fists — and battery after he allegedly tried to kiss a woman parking attendant and hit her supervisor, a prosecutor's spokesman has said.

If found guilty, Tyson, the youngest heavyweight world champion in history, could be sentenced to up to 18 months in jail and fined \$12,000.

The 21-year-old American, who was charged late on Monday, was alleged to have grabbed attendant Tabita Gonzalez, 18, in a bear hug in the parking lot of the Greek Theatre on June 21 after attending a concert by the rap-rock group Run-DMC.

Mike Qualls, a spokesman for the Los Angeles city attorney's office, alleged that Tyson said something like "give me a kiss" and Gonzalez struggled to get away, attracting the attention of her supervisor, Jonathan Casares.

The football association said it was unable to sanction the proposed trips by First-Division Tottenham Hotspur and Second-Division Leeds United "under the prevailing circumstances."

The Spurs were to have played in The Netherlands, while Leeds was scheduled to play in West Germany.

Tyson... only a gun can stop him

Police Lieutenant David Waterman said Tyson allegedly threw a concert T-shirt at Casares, 20, and struck him in the month. He said Casares suffered a cut lip and an injured nose.

Tyson, who gave an address in the Catskill Mountains of New York State, is due to be arraigned on August 26.

Tyson holds both the World Boxing Council (WBC) and World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight crowns and is scheduled to meet American Tony Tucker on August 1 in Las Vegas for the undisputed world heavyweight title. He successfully retained his crowns last May against countryman Pinklon Thomas.



LOOKING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION? Al-Baqq's goalie Fathi Abu Dan moves to hit the ball back in defending his net during a match played Wednesday against Al-Faisali team. The match,

### Los Angeles reiterates offer to host Olympics

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Harry Usher, one of the architects of the extremely successful 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, believes the city could have hosted the games next summer should such an emergency situation have arisen.

But Anita DeFrantz, the president

of the Amateur Athletic Foundation (AAF) of Los Angeles and one of two International Olympic Committee (IOC) representatives to the United States, isn't so sure that such a task could have been undertaken.

And Amy Quinn, the press secretary of the 1984 games, indicated that she wouldn't have wanted to see such an attempt made for aesthetic reasons.

In answer to a hypothetical question, Usher, the executive vice president and general manager of the 1984 games, said Tuesday that time would have been the main opponent of such an undertaking by Los Angeles.

DeFrantz, time would have probably been too formidable an opponent.

The one thing I'm concerned about is the manpower in Los Angeles to take care of it, Usher said. "We have a tremendous number of people who could get it done. The question is timing, money, but not people power."

"Said DeFrantz: "That's a real

tough question, could it have been done."

I think it would have taken maybe an extra year to get it done."

Mayor Tom Bradley said last month he had spoken informally with IOC officials about using Los Angeles as an alternate site for the 1988 Summer Games if the political situation in Seoul, South Korea, made it impossible for the 1988 Summer Olympics to be held there.

On Tuesday, however, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch

anch said if the games could not be held in Seoul, they would not be held at all.

Usher was asked to comment on the hypothetical question.

The question is really framed, should there be no Olympics in 1988 or should there be one where you could continue tradition, Usher said. "If you acted pretty soon, it could be done (in Los Angeles)."

"It's not going to be as perfect, it's not going to be as well-planned because of the time problems, but it could be done."

### Algeria, Qatar set to reap more gold medals in Arab meeting

ALGIERS (R) — Hosts Algeria entered the third day of competitions in the Arab athletics championships Wednesday night hoping to maintain their gold medal lead.

The Algerians will look to Samia Djemma in the women's 60 metres with a career best effort, achieved in Moscow, standing at 61.28 metres. She should face what amounts to symbolic opposition in Wednesday's final in the July 5 Stadium.</

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6155/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3227/32	Canadian dollar
	1.8450/60	West German marks
	2.0765/75	Dutch guilders
	1.5415/25	Swiss francs
	38.20/25	Belgian francs
	6.1430/60	French francs
	1335/1336	Italian lira
	150.55/65	Japanese yen
	6.4209/50	Swedish crowns
	6.7375/7425	Norwegian crowns
	6.9975/7.0025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold.	442.00/442.50	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities stood mixed but with an easier bias in late trading as operators took profits at the end of the account, in the wake of the recent record-breaking run.

One dealer suggested the market was displaying "typical end-of-account blues," pointing out that a lack of corporate news, together with Wall Street's uninspiring early trend, accelerated the sell-off during the afternoon session.

Dealers also noted renewed fears of further cash calls on the market after articles in the midday press estimating a £4 billion queue for funds. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 12.8 points at 2,352.6 after an all-time high of 2,375.9.

Many dealers noted good U.S. interest, particularly among the perennial U.S. favourites such as Glaxo, up 29p to 1,763, ICI 9p higher at 1,513, Jaguar 12p better at 562 and Reuters 5p higher at 872.

They also noted some speculation that Japanese funds were finding their way into London equities via Wall Street. They pointed out that Wall Street closed strongly on Tuesday while the Tokyo stock market scored its fifth successive decline.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

## FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make travel arrangements today for business or vacation purposes. Rely on insight to help you achieve your goals. Tonight stop and consider your progress.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle long-distance correspondence, and consider the time element if the delivery date is very important.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You'll get fine results if you show your romantic nature to a loved one. Be alert to business opportunities today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An above-board partner will have great ideas and fine advice. This help can bring you much success if you listen.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A prominent person can give you a big boost if approached wisely. Use your talents to increase your income.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Now is the time to get into that new activity which you've been eager to experience. Make your plans for this matter early.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Entertaining guests would be fine today, but very bad tonight. Concern yourself with important personal matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A generous friend can provide you with great advice about how to advance on a current opportunity. Talk it through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Think big if you're after a big success and let people see your abilities. Clear up your paperwork privately this evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you plan your time wisely, you may be able to investigate a new project which would be highly beneficial.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to straighten out a problem with a loved one, but keep it confidential. Improve your credit rating tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An associate can give you good advice on how to make a venture with your friends very successful and pleasing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) An annoying situation at home can be resolved with the help of an expert and the cooperation of your family.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have a wonderful imagination, and should be encouraged to put new ideas into motion. Be sure to give your child plenty of praise for outstanding accomplishments. Your son or daughter should be schooled in languages and manners, since he or she will travel much.

## FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A change of attitude will be necessary if you are to keep up with the swiftly-moving conditions around you. The full moon may create a tendency for strange mood swings.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Correspondence may bring up new situations, but try to concentrate on resolving old ones which have been put off.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Improve your proficiency in using modern avenues of expression. A situation which arises can be beneficial.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be direct in stating your ideas for changes in business. Good results and a fine agreement will be reached.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A good amount of work can be accomplished if you apply yourself. Keep your promises to the letter.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make arrangements for your weekend activities this morning, but keep up with necessary business duties.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't put your family in an angry mood this morning. Tonight, decide on how to improve your relationship with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Finish with an important report before returning calls. Entertain guests tonight, but definitely avoid gossip.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Decide on a course of action to handle a responsibility you've been neglecting. Get your property fixed up today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Seeking advice from a financial expert would be a very wise move. Improve your personal appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Clear up an annoying situation and be done with it. Be sure not to waste any money on things you don't need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try your best to prevent an argument between your mate and a long-time friend. Keep your fidelity intact.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your family's happiness is your first priority. Recreation with friends can wait until this is achieved.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have a hunger for knowledge which will prove very helpful. Your son or daughter will be very serious and businesslike, and could be very successful, so plan now for a good education. Teach your child while young that a kind word is stronger than sarcasm.

## Manila modifies tax system

MANILA (R) — The Philippines is to introduce a wide-ranging 10 per cent value added tax (VAT) from Jan. 1, replacing a complex existing sales tax system, officials said Wednesday.

Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Benjamin Tan told reporters the tax had been approved by the cabinet and a decree should be signed soon by President Corazon Aquino.

The new tax will replace the present four-tiered sales tax structure, which varies between 10 and 30 per cent, Mr. Tan said.

He said the government expected a minimum 1.5 billion peso (\$75 million) increase in revenue next year through the new tax, which he said would also ease the tax burden on consumers.

The tax is projected to raise about 27.5 million pesos (\$1.3 million) in a full year, against about 11 million (\$550,000) now collected from the sales tax system. Mr. Tan said revenue increase figures allowed for first year "slippage" of up to 50 per cent.

He said small companies with gross sales of less than 200,000 pesos (\$10,000) would be exempted, but the government expected to raise more revenue because of a broadened tax base.

"The bottom line is that it would help the consumers because of lower prices of merchandise," Mr. Tan said.

Total government revenue last

## Jakarta curbs money supply

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian government has withdrawn a massive amount of rupee deposits from state banks forcing a big sell-off of the dollar and sending interbank call money rates as high as 40 per cent, bankers said Wednesday.

The government withdrew 800 billion rupees (almost \$500 million) in time deposits and other accounts owned by four big state-owned firms, including the giant Pertamina oil company, National Development Planning Minister Johannes Sumarlin said earlier.

The move was intended to stop the near-panic buying of dollars which had hit the banking system in May and June, Mr. Sumarlin said.

The huge rupee withdrawal prevented state banks from lending rupee to private banks and business speculators who had been borrowing heavily to buy dollars.

The move also pushed overnight interbank call money rates between 35 and 40 per cent, and had effectively dried up the credit market here, bankers said.

## Price of coffee drops sharply

LONDON (AP) — The price of coffee on the London market dropped Tuesday to its lowest level for five years following news that Brazil is offering beans for sale more cheaply, traders said.

At the low, coffee for September delivery was trading at 1,210 pounds a tonne, a drop of 50 pounds on Monday's best price and 20 pounds below the previous five-year low in early April.

"The setback was triggered by the news that Brazil is offering coffee at more competitive prices," said trader Robert Leftwich.

Analysts said the move by Brazil, the world's biggest producer and exporter of coffee, further weakened a market already undermined by statistical evidence of oversupply during the next 12 months.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast a rise of 27 per cent in world production in the current 1987-88 season to 97.8 million bags. One bag equals 60 kilogrammes, or 132 pounds.

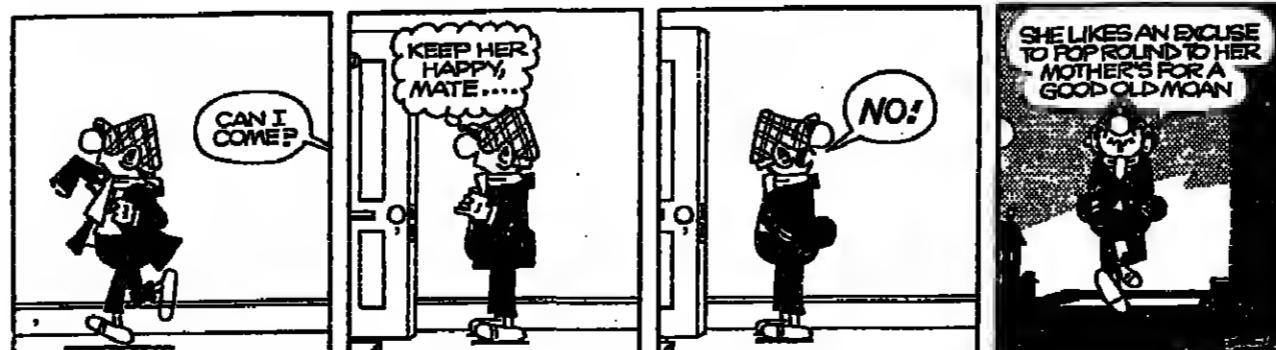
## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## London expects to raise \$2b from sale of 7 major airports

LONDON (R) — The government said Wednesday its sale this month of seven major British airports — the latest step in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's privatisation programme — would raise £1.23 billion (\$1.9 billion) for the state coffers.

BAA makes money from fees paid by airlines and by concessions operating car parks, duty-free shops and restaurants at the airports. Last month, it reported that pre-tax profits for the year ended March 31 rose 10.5 per cent to £84 million (\$136 million).

BAA chairman Sir Norman Payne said profits improved in the second half of the year, after being depressed last year when fears of terrorism in Europe and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union sharply cut tourism from the United States.

In her eight years in power, Mrs. Thatcher has denationalised more than a third of state-owned industries and the number of share owners in Britain has trebled to 9.5 million out of a population of about 56 million.

The government decided to use a tender after financial institutions complained that the heavy oversubscription of earlier privatisations, including British Telecom, British Gas and British Airways, left them with hardly any shares.

Under the tender system, the price bid for minimum applications of 1,000 shares will be the price paid, with the highest offers winning.

BAA runs Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports, all in the London area, and the civil facilities at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen, all in Scotland.

Among the state enterprises which have already been sold off are British Airways Plc, the British Gas Plc, Natural Gas Utility, British Telecoms Plc and aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce Plc.

## Bulgaria allows more reforms

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The Bulgarian national assembly has adopted a declaration which will facilitate decentralisation, giving more decision-making power to municipalities, the state BTA news agency said Tuesday.

Bulgaria, traditionally the Soviet Union's staunchest ally among the Warsaw Pact nations, initiated its economic reform programme in 1986, and intends to complete it late this year.

BTA announced Monday that the council of ministers, a process which is to be completed by Sept. 30.

In a departure from traditional socialist central planning, Tuesday's declaration said municipalities will have a say in determining the structure of production, and the right to organise the construction of small and medium-size enterprises, BTA said.

According to BTA, citizens will have the right to directly participate in resolving important questions concerning the municipality through consultations, referendums, general meetings and open sessions.

## Tanzania to get \$1.9b in aid

PARIS (R) — Major donors have pledged \$1.93 billion in aid to Tanzania for 1987-88, Finance Minister Cleopha Msuya said here Tuesday.

"I would have liked to have got more but I am satisfied with the result. It is a satisfactory arrangement until the economy picks up," Mr. Msuya told a news conference here after a two-day meeting with 21 countries and donor agencies making up the consultative group for Tanzania.

Mr. Sven Sandstrom, the World Bank's southern Africa director, said the commitments, broken down into \$955 million for 1987 and \$978 million in 1988, were clearly an increase over the \$800 million pledged last year for 1987.

A World Bank paper said maize output had risen over the last three years and the country was now self-sufficient in grains.

## Dollar firms in Europe

LONDON (R) — The dollar firmed in value Wednesday, holding well above 150 Japanese yen, as the Japanese share and bond markets plunged again, dealers said.

With many economists convinced a major flow of funds out of Japan is in progress, the dollar gained nearly a yen to touch highs of 150.57 yen and 1,846 West German marks in Europe.

"What we have now is not so much a dollar rise as a yen weakening," said one London dealer.

The Tokyo stock market slumped, with the Nikkei index of 225 shares dropping 343.67 points to close at 23,472.42. Over the past four trading sessions, the index has fallen 820.37 points.

Investors fear the Japanese economy will be squeezed by firm oil prices, with no signs of further interest rate cuts from the Bank of Japan.

The United States, meanwhile, agreed to stop letting the dollar slide and to cut its budget deficit.

Many investors fear that unless the U.S. trade deficit does come down, the dollar will have to slide, despite central bank intervention.

That would price European and Japanese firms out of key export markets, and should eventually cut the trade deficit.

Wednesday's dollar strength did buoy some European shares, as the Paris and Amsterdam markets firmed, while Frankfurt and Zurich shares were steady.

In London, the benchmark Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares rose 10.5 points to a morning high of 2,375.9. It was at a record close Tuesday night of 2,365.4.

## Japanese business leader sees economic confusion

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy faces confusion as it weans itself from dependence on exports by boosting domestic activity, leading businessman, Mr. Eishiro Saito, said.

Mr. Saito, chairman of Japan's Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren), told Reuters in an interview Tuesday that public debate was sure to rage over the source of government funds spent to promote economic restructuring.

"There can be no restructuring without confusion," said Mr. Saito, who is chairman of Japan's biggest steel company, Nippon Steel.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Monday presented to an emergency session of parliament a 2,070 billion yen (\$13.9

## Seoul frees 357 dissidents on eve of funeral protest

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Wednesday freed 357 jailed dissidents under a democracy package announced on July 1 by President Chun Doo Hwan to end nationwide political protests, the Justice Ministry said.

They included veteran human rights campaigner Moon Ik-Hwan and woman student Kwon In-Suk, who claimed police sexually tortured her after her arrest last year.

Also freed were 12 students jailed for the take-over of U.S. Cultural Centres in Seoul and Pusan.

The Seoul government, striving to project a more liberal image, was pressing forward with its reform offensive on the eve of the funeral of a student fatally injured during anti-government protests.

On Monday, another 177 political detainees were freed under the Chun package announced after nearly three weeks of fierce street protests across the country.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said former presidential candidate Kim Dae-Jung and about 2,100 dissidents convicted of political offences would be formally pardoned and have their civil rights restored early Thursday.

His statement coincided with

an announcement by dissidents that they would hold protest rallies Thursday in Seoul and 10 other cities after funeral ceremonies for Lee Han-Yol, a 20-year-old student they call "a martyr for democracy."

Lee died on Sunday after lying brain-dead in hospital since June 9 when he was hit by fragments of a police teargas shell during a demonstration.

The National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution, which organised three major street rallies last month, has refrained from mobilising street protests since July 1 when President Chun Doo Hwan bowed to its demands for free elections, guarantees of human rights and press freedom.

The coalition is an opposition umbrella body linking the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) with Christian and Buddhist groups and human rights activists.

"We planned yesterday to concentrate on the funeral and call a day of protest later but public demands were so strong that we

## Rescuers search for 23 bodies after West German lorry disaster

HERBON, West Germany (R) — Rescuers sifted through mounds of rubble Wednesday searching for more than 20 people feared killed after a fully-laden petrol tanker smashed into a restaurant Tuesday night triggering a series of explosions.

Fire brigade chief Ernst Achilles told reporters the expected death toll was lower than had originally been thought. One body had so far been recovered and 23 people were still unaccounted for.

Twenty-nine people were taken to hospital in nearby towns after the lorry, laden with 36,000 litres of petrol, skidded out of control, sending fuel spewing

from its tank into gas pipes and underground sewers.

Eyewitness Mathias Greh, 28, described the accident:

"The tanker was coming down the street," he said. "On the corner, where there's a fitness centre, he didn't manage to make a left hand turn. It fell over onto its right hand side. Petrol poured out and people came rushing out to see what had happened."

"Some were running away, others were rushing back into the restaurant. Then came the explosion. Those who had gone back into the cafe were immediately trapped in the flames."

Another told of a woman running screaming barefoot across

mountains of broken glass.

Four of the injured were in a critical condition and were flown to a special burns clinic in Cologne. Five firemen were also treated for minor injuries.

Herborn, an old town with a population of 20,000, some 80 kilometres north of Frankfurt, was turned into an inferno. Two buildings were razed, another nine were badly damaged.

Police declared an emergency, sealing off the immediate area with metal barricades and deploying paramilitary border forces to guard it. Only rescue workers, volunteers and journalists were allowed inside.

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Meanwhile Sri Lanka's chief security official said Tuesday he expects the Tamil rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula to be in government hands soon.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, the national security minister, made the comment in a parliamentary debate in which opposition members called for withdrawal of the army from Jaffna if it could not capture the northern peninsula.

The debate came a day after Tamil separatist rebels destroyed an army camp on the peninsula.

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There were only 80 survivors in Zambia's worst river disaster. It occurred near Katabuluwa Harbour on a river full of crocodiles which forms the frontier between Zaire and Zambia, some 640 kilometres north of the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

The Zambian News Agency reported that only 40 bodies had been recovered so far. Three were Zambians and the rest Zaireans. Officials believe most of the victims in the disaster were Zaireans.

The daily Times of Zambia, which is owned by the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP), said 175 bodies had been recovered by Tuesday afternoon.

## 3 Sikhs killed in backlash from Indian bus massacres

CHANDIGARH (AP) — Army troops went on alert Wednesday as anti-Sikh violence erupted in Haryana state following the massacre of 72 bus passengers in organised attacks by Sikh terrorists.

A 55-year-old Sikh man was stoned to death Wednesday in the industrial town of Yamunanagar in Haryana, state police chief Hans Raj Swan told a news conference.

In Fatehabad town, a Sikh fearing attack fired at an approaching mob. He was overpowered and burned to death. Mr. Swan said. At least 24 Sikhs also were wounded in attacks in different parts of Haryana, he said.

An unconfirmed report from Hissar town said that a Sikh was killed by a mob.

Six cases of arson and looting against Sikh-owned shops were reported in Hissar and Sirsa towns. Mob made attempts to stop trains and lynch Sikh passengers in two towns, but railway police escorted the Sikhs to safety, the police chief said.

The revenge killings occurred near the massacre site of 32 bus passengers, most of them Hindus, Tuesday night in Haryana. Officials had previously said 34 people were killed in the Haryana massacre.

Meanwhile, the death toll rose to 40 in the Monday night bus massacre in Punjab by Sikh terrorists, officials said. It was the worst single attack since the Sikh campaign for autonomy or independence started in 1982.

The organised attacks on buses

help only in an emergency.

They said a Sikh man was stabbed Tuesday morning in east Delhi, scene of revenge killings after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Sikhs in 1984. They condemned the attack from the area and increased patrols.

Sikhs staged marches in six Haryana towns to prevent violence against Sikhs.

In the capital, New Delhi, crack Gurkha troops stood by in police compounds in trucks mounted with machine-guns.

Police said the army would

## New poll shows Hawke's party leading with 4 points

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Australian Labour Party holds a 4 per cent lead over the opposition Liberal-National Party coalition in the national election to be held Saturday, according to a new poll.

Mr. Hawke, in his bid to become the first Labour leader elected to three successive terms, is defending his economic record at a time of reduced living standards in Australia.

John Howard, chief of the Liberal Party and head of the opposition coalition, is promising huge tax cuts.

Results from the weekly Morgan Gallup Poll, published in Wednesday's Bulletin magazine,

said Labour's lead had narrowed from 5 per cent recorded the week before.

The poll of 1,200 voters, taken over the weekend, gave Labour a rating of 48 per cent compared to 44 per cent for the coalition of the two main opposition parties.

In the previous poll, Labour drew 48.5 per cent and the coalition 43.5 per cent.

Rated individually, the opposition Liberals stayed at 33.5 per cent both weeks, while the opposition Nationals edged up to 10.5 per cent.

Morgan Gallup, which surveys the same group of voters each week, has consistently shown Labour in the lead by a margin of 2 to 6 per cent in past weeks.

## Panama bans public protests

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama has banned public protests indefinitely after a week of growing anti-government street demonstrations and an attack by gunmen on an independent radio station.

A presidential decree read over government television late Tuesday night said public protests were banned to avert "serious disturbances of public order."

Supporters of the military-dominated government took to the streets Tuesday night to counter the protest demonstrations, firing shots at an independent radio station in the city centre and shattering car windows.

The latest unrest in the Panamanian capital prompted the U.S. Southern Command to warn the 10,000 American troops sta-

tioned here against leaving their bases along the banks of the Panama Canal.

Warnings on the Southern Command's television station said demonstrations made visits to the capital "inadmissible."

Witnesses identified the leader of the attack on Radio Mundial, which the Interior Ministry shut down during unrest last week, as Luis Gaspar Suarez, president of a small political party known as the Partido Panameño.

Mr. Suarez, a longtime associate of Panama's military chief and de facto ruler Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega owns a radio station that was shut down on Monday on charges of inciting government supporters to violence. He heads a paramilitary group known as "the black berets."

## Travellers claim 60 troops died in Tamil rebel attack

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Travellers returning from the area where guerrillas raided a military camp said the death toll

could be as high as 60, although the government maintained only 20 soldiers were killed.

According to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the guerrilla group which claimed responsibility for the attack, more than 100 soldiers were slain when its fighters blew up the army camp located in a school building in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The attack Monday in the strategic Vadamarachchi area was the worst fighting since a May army offensive in which the military wrested control of the region from the rebels.

Travellers from Vadamarachchi, who asked that their names not be used for safety reasons, said Tuesday the military death toll could even exceed 60. They said 40 missing soldiers were presumed to have died in the raid.

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